THE FORTRESS

THE OFFICAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BARONY OF CAERTHE

UNTO THE POPULACE OF THE GREAT BARONY OF CAERTHE, OLD FRIENDS, NEWCOMERS ONE AND ALL, DO WE DOMENICO AND MARIA, BARONE E BARONESSA DI CAERTHE SEND GREETINGS!

The winter winds blow strong this time of year, yet the fire in the hearth of Caerthe burns bright. Our fighters and archers continue to hone their skills with regular indoor practices. Our artisans are producing great works of art, and sharing their skills through increased activity in our various Trade Guilds. Now is the time of year to learn something new and to prepare for the coming spring event season. If there is something you would like to learn, be it fighting in any form, archery, scribal arts, sewing and fiber arts, woodworking, cooking, leatherworking - or what have you -please make your want known to us! We will see that you are connected with the right gentles in order to pursue this desire. One of the greatest strengths of Caerthe is the depth of talent across our populace – I heartily encourage all to avail yourselves to the opportunities here as we await the return of warmer months.

As a Barony and a Kingdom we have returned from the recent Estrella War, bodies' cold but hearts warm with the tales of the great deeds that occurred there. An unexpectedly heavy rainfall presented all attendees with a true medieval experience.... While it may not have been the weather we all hoped for, many folks said to me afterwards that it was their best Estrella ever. No one wants to be flooded out of camp, but when the community comes together with food, dry clothes and hospitality to aid those struck the hardest, the ideals of our Society shine brightest. The camaraderie that develops under such conditions is what separates our Society from any mere "game" and in my experience helps to forge relationships which only add to the enjoyment of events for years down the road.

Caerthe was well-represented in the limited martial activities that occurred, and throughout the event members of our populace stepped up to volunteer, often during the cold, late night shifts. We were proud to receive the gratitude of the Crown and the event stewards for the volunteer efforts of Caerthe, and are most pleased to pass that recognition along here. A heartfelt thank you to all who put in their time in to help make the event a little better for everyone.

We encourage all to participate in the life of Caerthe, and hope you enjoy this issue of your Fortress Newsletter!!

Ever in Service to the Dream,

Domenico e Maria

Barone e Baronessa di Caerthe

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BARONY OF CAERTHE CHAMPIONS!

A&S Champion:	Mistress Arcadia de Medina	**Sword of Chivalry:**	Sir Wilhelm Galbrearth
Archery Warden:	THL Lord Mahowne Mac Agaloglie	**Premier Blade:**	Don Santiago Rodriguez de Cadiz
Crossbow Warder:	Master Daffyd of Emmett	**Blade of Chivalry:**	Lady Aurelia
Equestrian Champion:	Lady Marisse do Bourgogne	**Cut & Thrust:**	Mistress Gwencat
Thrown Weapons:	Lord Sigeric Flein Ox	**Warlord:**	Sir Iohann der Vuhs
Blackthorn Bard:	Lady Isabel la Biche d'Hiver		

BARONIAL PROGRESS:	EVENTS CALENDAR:
3/8-3/9/2019 *Crown Tourney* Al-Barran (D&M) **4/6 – 4/7/2019** *Golden Thimble* Caerthe (D&M) **4/13 – 4/14/2019** *Kindom A&S / Baronial Investiture* Citadel (D&M) **4/27/2019** *Asrquelle Defender* Caerthe (D&M?) **5/11 – 5/12/2019** *Coronation* Dragonspine (D&M) **5/18/2019** *Brewers Fest* Unser Hafen (D&M) **5/24 - 5/27/2019** *Jocivus* Caerthe (D&M) **6/1/2019** *Kingdom Heralds & Scribes* Carthe (M)	All Kingdom Events may be found here! https://www.outlands.org/events **Business Meetings:** **6:30pm – 8:30pm: 1st Monday** rotating schedule: Hacienda Colorado Please check Facebook for location. https://www.facebook.com/caerthe.sca/ **Fighter Practice:** **6:00pm – 9:00pm: Thursday** Ragni Lighting, 14175 E 42nd Ave., Denver (back row of warehouses) **Archery Practices:** **6:30pm - 9:30pm: Monday** No Limits Archery, 3050 E 78th Ave, Denver **6:30pm – 9:00pm: Tuesday** Rocky Mountain Specialty Gear, 4298 Kipling St B, Wheat Ridge **9:00am-12:00pm: Sunday** Scout Park, 132 E 112th Pl, Northglenn **Indoor site:** Empty Quiver Archery, 7180 W. 117th Ave., Unit C, Broomfield **Hosted Gatherings –** **Guilds & Populace Social links:** Apothecary Guild https://tinyurl.com/caerthe-apothecary Caerthe Cavalry https://www.facebook.com/groups/CaertheCavalry Children's Guild https://tinyurl.com/caerthe-children-guild Cooks Guild https://tinyurl.com/caerthe-cooks-guild Jeweler's Guild https://www.facebook.com/groups/JewelersGuildofCaerthe Outlands Archery and Thrown Weapons https://tinyurl.com/outlands-archery Scribe's Guild https://tinyurl.com/caerthe-scribes-guild Scola Metallorum https://www.facebook.com/ScolaMetallorum/ Canton of Ravenhyrst https://www.facebook.com/ravenhyrst Canton of Hawks Hallow https://www.facebook.com/HawksHollowSCA

Baronial Report: The Scribe

TO THE ARTISANS OF CAERTHE DOES MARION FORESTER, BARONIAL SCRIBE, SEND GREETINGS!

We have some great scribes in our barony and we're doing some really fun things. Scribal Nights are held each fourth Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm at my home at 17698 E Brunswick Place in Aurora. In February the topic for Scribal Night was fun and easy illumination. We drew and painted and laughed. March's Scribal Night will be focused on making and using gesso for gilding. A good gesso provides a raised surface for gold leaf to stick to. We'll make the gesso, apply a little, add gold leaf, and burnish the gold until it gleams. April's Scribal Night will be on calligraphy. Come and practice or learn something new!

I'm sure we will have more requests for scrolls coming before Jocivus in May. If you are interested in taking on a scroll assignment, please let me know so that I can give you an assignment as they come in. Speaking of award scrolls, please write award recommendations! Now is a good time so that Their Excellencies learn who is doing really neat things in our barony and can take your recommendations under advisement.

If you are not interested in a scroll assignment, but want to paint or do calligraphy, we love scroll blanks! Leave the name of the recipient, baron and baroness, event, and dates blank so that they can be filled in as necessary.

Thank you so much to all the wonderful artists in our barony. Your work is amazing and appreciated! If I can help you, please feel free to grab me at an event or meeting to chat or contact me at scribe@caerthe-sca.org.

In Service,

Marion Forester

Caerthe Scribe – scribe@caerthe-sca.org

Baronial Report: The Chronicler

GREETINGS CAERTHE,

I hope this missive finds you and yours well.

Your chronicler staff are working hard to make The Fortress as amazing of a newsletter as our Barony is. To do this, we need your assistance. While Bea and I put the newsletter together, it is your hard work that make it possible. The Fortress is not our newsletter, it is yours!

Your submissions are the heart and soul of this publication. So please, if you have a message to communicate to the members of our Barony, Kingdom, and the Known World; send it in. Whether you are an officer, in a guild, or just a member of the populace that has a great story is applicable to our lives in the SCA, please email it to the Chronicler's email address.

On top of reports, bios for the "Meet the Barony" section of The Fortress are also needed and appreciated. Tell us about your life in the SCA. Whether you are just getting started or have been playing since the days of carpet armor; it makes no difference. Reading of others' experiences in this hobby, inspires us to do things we've never tired. It can also lead to a new friendship or understanding of someone that you never thought possible.

Finally, I just want to thank you all for the support you have given The Fortress. I appreciate every single submission, all of the kind words and constructive criticism that has been sent my way.

In service to Crown, Kingdom, and the dream,

Khaliu Cessilus

Chronicler, Barony of Caerthe

chronicler@sca.org

Greetings unto the Populace of Caerthe!

Not the Estrella You Wanted...The Estrella You Needed

Walking onto Grand Court - Photo by Breanne Pye

If you are like me, and many other Caerthens, you attended Estrella XXXV: Awaken the Dream and may have regrets. If you are NOT like me, and skipped Estrella this year, you are probably thanking your lucky stars. For those of you who missed it, let me tell you about Bogstrella A.S. 53 (or Floodstrella, Mudstrella, Rainstrella....).

I will be honest, during the worst of the 30-hour straight rain, I wished I could have been anywhere but Schnepf Farms, most notably, a warm hotel room. During the day many of us hid under shade pavilions watching the water slowly encroach closer and closer into our dry sanctuary. Fighters, however, were not as deterred by a little rain.

While I heard of rapier pickups in the morning and that the Outlands Prize Tournament was still held, I saw none of it, as I huddled close to a tent heater and enjoyed the generous hospitality of Aurora Moon. Sadly, the rain was bad enough that the Outlands party was called off temporarily. However, the show must go on. Inevitably as the sun went down, many people still wanted to socialize and party. So, we ventured forth into the near-constant drizzle that was neither heavy nor light, in search of a revel. And possibly a finger or two of whiskey.

I will say, that once I was out-and-about in my heavy-duty snow boots and excessively warm outerwear that included a magical woolen cloak, it wasn't too bad. That is, until you're trudging through ankle-deep water in the middle of town square... However, once I made it over to the Atenveldt side of site, I was once again enjoying the

*Caerthe stands!**

*Falnor gets offered admittance into the Order of Chivalry**

good company of new friends (and also some whiskey) with Clan Night Wolf. Later on in the evening I also got to spend time with the Old Fable Inn and Darbuka, sharing music and keeping myself mostly dry.

During this ordeal, I noticed how resilient SCAdians are, especially those that chose to stay on site and enjoy their time despite the weather. And then, in the days following, this hardiness remained. There were many instances of people helping other people: Donating towels, blankets, and socks to those who didn't have any dry clothing; Helping move tents, trench, and place down pallets and hay; sharing comradery, commiseration, and especially food, drink, and company.

Despite all of this, I did get to take part in some highlights:

- Mistress Akalina's Laurel ceremony was beautiful as she swore her fealty in Russian.
- The Honorable Lord Falnor (of Aarquelle) got offered admittance into the Order of Chivalry and then became Sir Falnor the next day in a heartfelt Knighting Ceremony. Which still makes me tear up thinking about.
- Mistress Gilliana was admitted into the Order of the Pelican.
- Duke Bela sat vigil (for his offer of a Pelican) during the Outlands party. I enjoyed my chat with him very much.
- The Outlands and Atenveldt combined their parties into one epic revel on Friday night that was well attended by both people and consumables (including meat smoked by Axgar and Falnor on site).
- The early bird rapier tourney had 10 Outlands fencers in attendance, and all but one were Caerthen! As I fought Countess Asney from Avacal, she asked me "All you Outlanders do that hand-picky thing. Are you from the same teacher or something?" Nah, that's just our awesomeness!

Mistress Akalina's Laurel Ceremony – Photo by Breanne Pye

I would also like to take a moment to thank everyone who did retinue duty for me and the Baron at this event: Lady Aleysia, Lord Jehan, Lady Winter, Lady Dilara, THL Isabelle, and Lady Ylva. Aleysia and Jehan deserve a special shout out. These two gentles tromped around with me in the crazy rain, foregoing dinner (which I was unaware of and scolded him afterward 😊), until all the wee hours of the night. Multiple times I told them that they should go home and get dry, but they would have none of it. I adore my Caerthe people! Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

Ultimately, it may not have been *anyone's* ideal Estrella, but as I look back on the event, I am nonetheless filled with warm fuzzies for the great community of which I have chosen to be a part. Maybe, next year I'll try Gulf Wars though...

In Service to the Dream,

Maria Castelana, Baronessa di Caerthe

*All photos not directly credited were taken by Her Excellency Maria Castelana

*Lake Caer Galen!**

This is the March, 2019 issue of the The Fortress, a publication of the Barony of Caerthe of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc.). The Fortress is available from Andrew harness, SCA Lord Khaliu Cessilus, 2030 W 10th avenue, apartment 202, Broomfield, CO 80020 and email: chronicler@caerthe-sca.org. It is not a corporate publication of SCA, Inc., and does not delineate SCA, Inc. policies. Copyright © 2019 Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. For information on reprinting photographs, articles, or artwork from this publication, please contact the Chronicler, who will assist you in contacting the original creator of the piece.

Writing Amazing Documentation

By Marion Forester

Many people avoid arts and sciences competitions because documentation seems intimidating, but it doesn't have to be. Documentation is simply telling the reader/judges what you did and why you did it the way you did.

Writing really good documentation should begin even before you start your project. Make sure you know the documentation requirements for the competition you are entering. Some competitions only require a note card with basic information, some require a clearly written paper with period souces cited. When you choose your project look at what was done in period when making your choices for the materials you use and the processes you undertake. Take notes on what you find and make sure to document in what source you found the information. It will make writing everything down later go so much more quickly if you don't have to search through several websites or books to find the information again. Sticky tags or post it notes are good to put in books with an information tag on the edge so you can quickly find what you need. As you work on your project, take notes on what happened, what went right, and any obstacles or failures you come across. You learn just as much from failures as you do from successes so make sure your reader learns as well. Take photos of your process and materials!

As your project nears an end, it's time to get down to business! Set the stage. What is your project? What period piece of art or science are you trying to replicate or recreate? What choices did you make concerning materials or process as far as cost, safety, or availability that makes your project different from the period piece? Make sure to explain any differences between your project and what a medieval person would have done. Try to use primary sources (photos of a period art, books written in period, etc.) whenever possible.

Help your reader flow through the important information. Use section headers so that information is easy for the reader to find. Suggested sections include and introduction explaining what your project is, materials and tools, process, your completed project, and a conclusion. Start your paragraphs with a topic sentence that tells the reader what the rest of the paragraph will be about. Make sure to cite your sources and let the reader know where you found your information. Finish your documentation with a "Bibiolography" section listing all the sources you relied on with enough information so that the reader could find the book. MLA is an often relied on citation method. Add your photos towards the end of your writing so that formatting doesn't change too much with editing. Make sure to label your photos. If your documentation has run long, a table of contents at the beginning is a good addition. A title page with a photo looks nice and gets your reader excited about your project.

Make sure that your documentation is easy to flip through and stays together. You can choose a document cover with a clear cover, a three ring binder, or simply staple your papers together. Print off at least one copy for each judge. Extra copies for people who are interested in your project are nice. An alternative to printing off extra copies is to have a website or link that you can direct people to in order to find your documentation.

You can get a free website through places like Word Press or Blogspot that are free and relatively easy to use.

Just remember that no one expects a doctoral level treatise. Just try to convey your information as clearly and as thoroughly as you can. The most important questions to answer are what you did and why did you do it.

Good luck on your documentation for Tri-baronial Arts and Sciences competition! I look forward to seeing your projects and reading your beautiful documentation.

MEET THE BARONY

The Barony of Caerthe is part of the Kingdom of the Outlands, in the Society for Creative Anachronism. The Barony encompasses the Denver, CO metro area and includes the Canton of Hawks Hallow in the north, the Canton of Ravenhyrst in the southeast and the College of Scola Scola Metallorum at the School of Mines.

MISSIVES FROM THEIR EXCELLENCIES

Her Excellency Maria has been publishing missives and post event write ups that include thanks to the event staff, photos, and much more. You can find the complete archive as well as new content at mcastelana.wordpress.com

LORD KHALUI CESSILUS

Greetings Caerthe!

As your chronicler, it's time that I introduce myself. After all, I ask for you to send your bios in every single month. It's only fair and just that I finally enter my own.

I am Lord Khaliu Cessilus, and I am most pleased to meet you. Though, I must admit, it is possible that we have met before. You see I have traveled a lot in my time in the SCA.

We may have met in the Kingdom of the Middle, where I was simply known as Andrew. I started my life in the current middle ages when I was attending chef school in Louisville, KY. It was 1999 and my roommate kept disappearing on the weekends to go camping. I just couldn't understand why he required an entire truck bed full of equipment for a weekend campout. When I finally got the courage up to ask him about it he simply smiled and said "How would you like to come out and have some fun? I'm running a feast this weekend. You are in chef school. Want to serve the most appreciative guests you'll ever meet?" I did, and I was instantly hooked.

After graduation, my travels and jobs took me through the Kingdoms of Meridies and Ansteorra. Still quite young, I was only 20-22 at the time, I had developed the persona of a 10th century warrior and chef from Iceland. Still very new to heraldry, I worked out the name Anders Mjoksiglandi, which roughly translates to Andrew the Traveler in Norwegian. Constantly moving during those years, I rarely had the time to play. Though, if an event fell on a rare weekend off, my t-tunics, plastic armor, and chef knives would head out to play.

The next twelve years in the timeline brought me to Calontir. A little older, a little wiser, and with a little more time on my hands, I finally made the time to become more than just a wanderer. I became known as Ottar Surtrson, mostly due to the fact that my former squire sister's youngest daughter couldn't say the name "Anders". She called me Uncle Otter, and it stuck. Having just recently taken on the office of Caltrop herald in the Barony of Vatavia (Wichita, KS). I was bound and determined to find a way to get the name passed officially.

Over the next twelve years I had to hang up my armor due to a loss of vision, though I do still enjoy rapier combat when I get the chance. I found my true passions to be more in the helping and the assisting with running things. I've served as seneschal, herald, chamberlain, event steward, quartermaster, and feast steward at the baronial level. I also served for one year as Calontir's Kingdom Chronicler, before relocating to our home in the Outlands.

Now in the Outlands, I've got a few more grey hairs in my beard, a little less hair on my head. I'm a husband and father first, last and always. Which I am forever thankful for. You see, the SCA is where I met my wife. It's where I've met so many amazing people and experienced so many amazing things. The cries of war, the ever famed "Hey, try this drink, it's heinous", and hundreds of other stories that I'd love to tell you some night around a fire, in a kitchen working an inn or feast.

My life has changed a lot from being a weekend warrior. I wouldn't' have it any other way. If there is ever any way I can give back for all of the great things the SCA has done for me, I would love to do so. So please, if you see me at a meeting or an event; come introduce yourself to me. If there is any way I can ever help you live the dream we all share, please ask. Caerthe is now my home, Caerthe is now my family. I look forward to this new chapter and lifting a mug with you soon.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS:

All submissions to the Fortress must be received no later than 8:00pm on the 25th day of the month prior to publication of the newsletter. Publications will occur in January, March, May, July, September, and November of 2019.

Content submitted to the Fortress must be accompanied by the proper release forms.

For further information, questions, and concerns, please contact the baronial chronicler at chronicler@caerthe-sca.org